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Dated: 3/4/04

Signature:

(Tasha Newton)

Docket No.: 322732000401  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Yoichi TAKAHAMA and Junichi SHIRAISHI

Application No.: 10/028,172

Filed: December 21, 2001

For: DIAGNOSTIC REAGENT FOR HEPATITIS C  
VIRUS INFECTION

Art Unit: 1648

Examiner: B. Li

**AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the non-final Office Action dated November 3, 2003, for which a response is due on February 3, 2004. Filed herewith is a Petition and fee for a two-month extension of time, thereby extending the deadline for response to April 3, 2004. Accordingly, this response is timely filed. Claims 13-30 were rejected in the Office action. Careful consideration has been given to the grounds for rejection and the following amendments and remarks are offered in response. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.